

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the surface treatment of a metal substrate, ~~consisting in~~ comprising applying, using an electrode, an electrical discharge having a voltage of between 17,000 V and 49,000 V and a frequency of between 22 kHz and 24 kHz on the surface of the metal substrate, whether previously painted or not, to be treated.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the voltage generated is approximately 30,000 V.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frequency used is approximately 22 kHz.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims in which,~~ Claim 1, wherein the metal substrate is previously painted.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 4, ~~in which~~ wherein the paint that coats the metal substrate is further coated by means of lithography, ink painting.
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~the preceding claims in which~~ Claim 1, wherein the metal substrate is not previously painted.
7. (Currently Amended) A device for the surface treatment of a metal substrate according to the method as per Claim 1 ~~to 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the electrode is ~~constituted by~~ comprises a conductive rod made of stainless steel or aluminum coated with a layer of insulating ceramic material.

8. (Currently Amended) A metal substrate, ~~in particular~~ for the packaging of foodstuffs, whether previously painted or not treated, according to the method ~~referred to in Claims 1 to 6 and with the device according to Claim 7~~ Claim 1 wherein the electrode comprises a conductive rod made of stainless steel or aluminum coated with a layer of insulating ceramic material.